

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising:

- (1) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or
- (2) a DNA molecule that hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 under stringent conditions of 6X SSC and 40% formamide at 25°C for hybridization, and 1X SSC at 55°C for washing.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell comprising (i) a DNA molecule comprising a reporter gene operably linked to an enhancer element comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 and (ii) the DNA molecule of (1) or (2):

- (1) a DNA molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1; or
- (2) a DNA molecule that hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions of 6X SSC and 40% formamide at 25°C for hybridization, and 1X SSC at 55°C washing.

6. (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 5, wherein said cell is an adipocyte.

7. (Previously Presented) The cell of claim 5, wherein said cell is a hypertrophic adipocyte.

8. (Cancelled)

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method of screening for a substance that can induce adiponectin expression comprising
- (a) reacting the cell of claim 5 with a test substance;
 - (b) detecting expression of a reporter gene; and
 - (c) selecting a test substance that yields a higher reporter gene expression in the cell treated with the test substance than in the cell that has not reacted with the test substance.

Claims 10–13 (**Cancelled**)

14. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 3, wherein the DNA of (2) is a DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
15. **(Previously Presented)** The composition of claim 3, further comprising a vector comprising the DNA molecule of (1) or (2).

Claims 16–17 (**Cancelled**)

18. **(Previously Presented)** The cell of claim 5, wherein said cell comprises a vector carrying the DNA of (i) and a vector carrying the DNA of (ii).
19. **(Previously Presented)** The cell of claim 5, wherein the DNA of (2) is a DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claims 20–21 (**Cancelled**)